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Now that initial strong reactions to the downing of the Korean Airliner flight KAL 007 with the loss of 269 lives have subsided, it may be appropriate to commence a dispassionate analysis of the horrific incident. The aim of this appraisal is purely to try and understand what might have happened, and the method is to introduce some new and hitherto unpublished perspectives. The editor does not necessarily agree with all the author's views, and, indeed, this magazine has already stated that it did not believe that KAL 007 had a "spy" mission, but the fresh material adduced here gives much to ponder. Yet in public at least, apart from occasional snide remarks, the superpowers seem to have dropped the issue, even though many questions concerned with the

Sakhalin incident remain unanswered; many now posed by the article have not been asked before, let alone resolved. Defence Attaché has therefore decided to publish this disturbing review of the facts in the hope that it will inspire further investigation. Scientific inquiry is needed, not name-calling and mud-slinging.

The author, who for professional reasons must remain anonymous is well known to the editor and is willing to enter into correspondence on any of the issues raised here or to supply further background. Letters addressed c/o The Editor will be forwarded by Defence Attaché, which reserves the right to publish extracts.

Reassessing the Sakhalin incident

